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## HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATE: FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

(Scroll down for Chinese translation) (请翻阅后面的中文翻译)

Wherever you are in the world, I hope you're well. I would like to provide a special update to our community on two important topics that have been the focus of many ongoing conversations within the Crisis Response Team and share what information we have to date around these topics.

Over the course of past communications, I've often referenced the ever-shifting landscape that is COVID-19 and this week has been no exception. In the process of finalizing a communication to be sent out on March 6th, we received notification from the authorities with new instructions which resulted in us having to review the accuracy and currency of the contents of our intended update. I want to thank you for your ongoing patience as we work to ensure only the release of accurate and verified information from local authorities.

### **Current Instructions from Guangzhou Education Bureau Regarding Ongoing Campus Closure**

On Saturday, March 7th, AISG received notice from the Guangzhou Education Bureau to “**instruct all students and teachers not to return to school until further notice.**”

While Chinese and international media outlets may note a decline in rates of COVID-19 within China, it is important to know that the spread of COVID-19 in many other parts of the world has resulted in the Guangzhou Education Bureau strengthening its focus on the prevention and control of imported epidemic risks from abroad.

AISG families currently located outside of China who are **currently in the process of returning to Guangzhou or who have made plans to return to Guangzhou** should contact the AISG Admissions Office ([admissions@aisgz.org](mailto:admissions@aisgz.org)) at your earliest convenience.

Families currently outside of China who are *considering* returning to Guangzhou prior to the official notification from AISG and the Education Bureau are suggested to reconsider their travel plans.

A detailed communication outlining the multi-step process for those families outside of China who

insist on returning to Guangzhou prior to official notification will be emailed tomorrow, Tuesday, March 10th.

Yesterday, March 8th, AISG also received a notice from the Command Center for the Prevention and Control of COVID-19 and the Ministry of Education informing us that “due to the development of the epidemic situation, the risk of epidemic input in China is relatively high.”

AISG has been instructed to *individually communicate* with all members of the AISG community (faculty, staff, students and their families) who are currently located in South Korea, Iran, Italy or Japan and request that they **not return to Guangdong until further notice**.

**If you are currently located in South Korea, Iran, Italy or Japan, we kindly request that you contact the AISG Admissions Office (admissions@aisgz.org) as soon as possible to discuss your situation.**

We are closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 around the world and the potential implications for our faculty, staff, and families in terms of their health, safety, and wellbeing. Additionally, China's Command Center for the Prevention and Control of COVID-19 continue to review and adjust their protocols regarding COVID-19 and are in regular contact with the school.

We will continue to share accurate and verifiable information on this matter with our faculty, staff, and families as it comes to hand.

### **Quarantine & Self-Isolation**

The topic of self-isolation and what that may look like for our community has been an ongoing area of concern for many in our community and rightly so. There is a wealth of information about what the quarantine and self-isolation process may involve with much of the information often being shared in very informal channels. Understandably, it can often be difficult to articulate what information is accurate and what information is simply hearsay. A complicating factor is that due to the highly fluid context of COVID-19 information at hand could potentially change within a matter of hours.

Currently, there is still a significant degree of uncertainty regarding quarantine testing protocols. At present, AISG is focusing on obtaining clarification around **three key areas** relating to **(i) quarantine testing, (ii) self-isolation and (iii) delayed onset of coronavirus symptoms:**

**(i) Quarantine Testing:** The protocol of testing specific travelers upon arrival in Guangzhou based on their port of departure and subsequent scenarios dependent on testing and results;

**(ii) Self-Isolation:** The protocol of self-isolating for 14 days for those who do not test positive for coronavirus; and

**(iii) Delayed onset of coronavirus symptoms:** The protocol for those who display symptoms relating to coronavirus during the 14-day self-isolation period.

The complication we face right now is making sense of the many contextually different guidelines for each protocol. For example, those who travel through designated “COVID-19 hot spots” face highly specific self-isolation protocols that differ to those who may have traveled back to Guangzhou via another country. Additionally, many Guangzhou residential compounds are implementing their own set of guidelines to support a safe and healthy environment for its residents.

We are working hard to obtain as much clarity as possible to give our faculty, staff, and families as much understanding about what quarantine and self-isolation will look like for all members of our community based on the above three scenarios. We are hoping to be able to provide confirmed information regarding the specific protocols around the above three scenarios partway throughout this week.

Please also keep an eye out for my next parent update scheduled for release later this week where we hope to provide additional clarification on the latest instructions from the Guangzhou Education Bureau, quarantine and self-isolation protocols, what actions AISG is taking to support social-emotional wellness along with other matters relating to teaching and learning and school operations at AISG.

It is an unimaginably difficult thing having to put your own personal lives on hold while still maintain a sense of routine and normalcy. Thank you for your ongoing support for one another during this challenging time.

In the meantime, I encourage you to continue to keep lines of communication open with your classroom teacher and divisional principal. Alternatively, you may also send your questions, concerns, and feedback to [prepare@aisgz.org](mailto:prepare@aisgz.org).

Stay safe, be well and keep positive.

Kevin Baker  
Director  
American International School of Guangzhou

尊敬的家长和监护人，

无论您在何处，我希望您一切安好。我想就危机应对小组正在持续进行讨论的两个重要主题向我们社区大家庭提供一个特别的更新，分享关于这些主题的最新信息。

在过去的邮件交流过程中，我经常提到COVID-19新型冠状病毒肺炎，这周也不例外。当我们准备于3月6日向大家发送更新邮件的最终定稿过程中，我们收到了政府部门的通知，其中包含了新的政策指示，以致我们重新审核准备更新的内容的准确性和时效性。我想感谢你们一直以来的耐心，因为我们不断努力确保我们发布的信息准确并经过政府部门核实的信息。

## **广州市教育局关于学校继续关闭的最新指示**

3月7日星期六，AISG收到了广州市教育局的通知，“通知所有学生和老师在收到进一步通知之前暂不返校。”

虽然中国和国际媒体报道COVID-19新型冠状病毒肺炎增长率在中国正在下降，然而，重要的是要知道COVID-19新型冠状病毒肺炎在许多世界其他地方传播，导致广州市教育局加强关注从国外输入性病例的预防和控制风险。

目前所有在境外的家庭，如果您正在计划或已经做好回广州的计划，请尽快与AISG招生部办公室联系，邮箱地址是 ([Admissions@aisgz.org](mailto:Admissions@aisgz.org)) 。

如果现处于境外的家庭正在考虑在AISG和教育局正式通知之前返回广州，建议您重新考虑旅行计划。

如果在境外的家庭在收到邮件前已经做好了回广州的计划，我们将于3月10日星期二通过电子邮件发送一份详细的通知，列明多个步骤。

昨天3月8日，AISG也收到了来自防控指挥部及教育部的通知，“由于COVID-19新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情的发展，中国国外疫情输入的风险相当高。”

AISG收到指示与目前在韩国、伊朗、意大利或日本的所有AISG社区成员(教职工、学生及其家属)进行单独沟通，并要求他们在收到进一步通知之前不要返回广东。

如果您目前在韩国、伊朗、意大利或日本，我们希望您尽快与AISG招生部办公室联系，讨论你们的情况，邮箱地址是 ([Admissions@aisgz.org](mailto:Admissions@aisgz.org)) 。

我们正在密切关注COVID-19新型冠状病毒肺炎在世界各地的传播情况，以及它对我们的教职员工及其家人的健康、安全和利益有可能产生的影响。此外，中国的COVID-19防控指挥部还在继续审查和调整有关COVID-19新型冠状病毒肺炎的方案，并与学校保持定期联系。

在这个问题上，我们将继续与我们的教职员工和家庭分享准确和核实的信息。

## **检验和自我隔离**

自我隔离的话题，以及对我们的社区来说，如何自我隔离一直是我们的社区中许多人关心的一个持续的话题，这是正确的。关于隔离和自我隔离过程可能涉及的内容有大量的信息，其中许多信息通常以非正式的渠道分享。可以理解的是，通常很难清楚地分辨哪些信息是准确的，哪些信息仅仅是道听途说。其中一个复杂的因素是，由于COVID-19新型冠状病毒肺炎信息的不断变化性，有些信息可能会在几小时内发生变化。

目前，隔离方案仍存在很大的不确定性。目前，AISG正致力于澄清以下三个关键领域：**(i)检验检测、(ii)自我隔离和、(iii)冠状病毒症状延迟出现：**

**(i)检验检测:** 针对特定旅客到达广州时, 根据其出发地的情况, 以及根据检测结果确定的后续的方案;

**(ii)自我隔离:** 对冠状病毒呈阴性的患者实施14天的自我隔离方案;和

**(iii)冠状病毒症状延迟出现:** 在14天自我隔离期间出现冠状病毒相关症状者的方案。

我们现在面临的复杂问题是如何理解每个不同情况下, 不同的指导原则。例如, 那些经由特定的“COVID-19新型冠状病毒肺炎高发地”旅行的人有特定明确的自我隔离指引, 这与那些可能从另一个国家返回广州的人不同。此外, 广州许多小区也在实施自己的一套指导方针, 为居民提供安全、健康的环境。

我们正在努力尽可能获得更多清晰的指引, 以使我们的教职员工和社区大家庭尽可能多地了解, 根据上述三种情况, 我们社区的所有成员将面临怎样的检验和自我隔离。我们希望能够在本周提供关于上述三个不同情况的具体指引信息。

同时, 请留意我们将于本周末发出的信息更新邮件,我们希望根据广州市教育局的指引, 提供更多有关检验和自我隔离的信息, AISG正在采取什么行动来支持社交情感健康以及其他AISG教学和学习的事项。

我们明白这真是难以想象的困难, 您必须把自己的个人生活置之不顾, 保持职业和家庭有序进行。感谢您在这段充满挑战的时间里彼此支持。

与此同时, 我鼓励你继续保持与班主任和各分部校长的沟通渠道畅通。或者, 您可以将您的问题、担忧和反馈发送到[prepare@aisgz.org](mailto:prepare@aisgz.org)。

祝您平安、身体健康和积极面对。

Kevin Baker

校长

广州美国人国际学校